

Message Text

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TO USLO PEKING

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LIMDIS FOR AMBASSADOR GATES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN OVIP (ARTHUR F. BURNS) CH

SUBJECT: TRAVEL TO CHINA OF ARTHUR F. BURNS

FOR AMBASSADOR GATES

ARTHUR F. BURNS HAS ASKED THAT WE PASS THE FOLLOWING
MESSAGE ON TO YOU:

QUOTE:

I HAVE FINALLY FOUND THE TIME TO FILL OUT THE VISA
APPLICATIONS, AND I SHALL GET THEM TO AMBASSADOR HUANG
CHEN TODAY. MY PRESENT THINKING ABOUT THE PROSPECTIVE
VISIT IS AS FOLLOWS:

1) WE WOULD LEAVE MANILA ABOUT OCTOBER 6 AND ARRIVE IN
PEKING, VIA TOKYO THE NEXT DAY.

2) BESIDES PEKING, WE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT SOOCHOW AND
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SHANGHAI, AND LEAVE FOR TOKYO ABOUT OCTOBER 13.

3) ACCORDING TO HUANG CHEN, APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR LEARNING ABOUT THE ECONOMY OF CHINA, ESPECIALLY ITS BANKING SYSTEM.

4) A SECURITY GUARD NORMALLY TRAVELS WITH ME, BUT I DOUBT IF THERE IS ANY POINT IN TAKING HIM TO CHINA. WHAT DO YOU THINK? MORE RELEVANT, I MAY WANT TO BRING AN ASSISTANT TO HANDLE DETAILS, BUT ONLY IF THIS CAN BE DONE WITHOUT CAUSING YOU INCONVENIENCE OR TROUBLE.

5) I EXPECT TO BE REASONABLY BRIEFED BY THE TIME I GET TO PEKING.

6) I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY SUGGESTIONS THAT MAY OCCUR TO YOU.

ONE QUESTION: ARE MODEST GIFTS APPROPRIATE?

I HAVE FOLLOWED THE TRAGIC NEWS FROM CHINA WITH DEEP CONCERN. IF THE NEWSPAPER REPORTS HERE ARE CLOSE TO THE MARK, A GIGANTIC REBUILDING EFFORT--BOTH SPIRITUAL AND MATERIAL--WILL HAVE TO GET UNDER WAY.

I REALIZE THAT TRAVEL TO CHINA IS NOW SURROUNDED WITH SOME UNCERTAINTY. HELEN AND I HOPE, NEVERTHELESS, THAT TRANQUILITY MAY BE RESTORED BY OCTOBER. WE ARE THEREFORE CONTINUING TO PLAN FOR THE VISIT, AND ARE EXCITED BY THE PROSPECT. WE KNOW THE PRESTONS, AND ARE PLEASED THAT THEIR VISIT MAY OVERLAP OURS. I SHALL TAKE THE LIBERTY ONE OF THESE DAYS OF CALLING AND INQUIRING ABOUT THEIR TRAVEL PLANS.

I HOPE THIS LETTER FINDS YOU AND YOURS WELL. WITH WARMEST REGARDS, ARTHUR F. BURNS.
END QUOTE.
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